

MINUTES
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEETING

Dixie Convention Center – Sunbrook A & B
1835 Convention Center Drive
St. George, Utah 84770

April 17, 2002
8:30 a.m.

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert G. Adams
John Cushing
KC Shaw
J. Ann Wechsler

Nan Bunker
Neil Kochenour
Douglas E. Thompson
Bill Williams

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Don Ostler, Faye Bell, Jay Pitkin, Nancy Hess, John Kennington, Walt Baker, Ed Macauley, JD McDonald, Kiran Bhayani, Wayne Thomas, Tim Beavers, Julie Haslem

OTHERS PRESENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization Representing</u>
Jim Olson	WEAU
Curtis Christensen	Weber County
James Briggs	Daggett County
Tim Jones	Jones & DeMille Engineering
Trudi Terry	Parowan City
Ron Smith	Parowan City
Bruce Matheson	Parowan City
Scott Hirschi	Washington County Econ. Dev
Gary Esplin	City of St. George
Don Acheson	J-U-B Engineers Inc.
Bill Luce	Hansen, Allen & Luce
Danny Astill	Murray City
Lonn Rasmussen	Certification Council
Mike Luers	SBWRD
Bryan Atwood	SBWRD
Marv Wilson	Sunrise Engineering
Dustin Shaffer	Sunrise Engineering
Brett Borup	BYU
Reed N. Fisher	Central Valley Water
Wes Losser	South Salt Lake
Gail Carlson	South Salt Lake
Craig Mathie	Monroe City
Doug Nielsen	Sunrise Engineering

Chairman Shaw called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed those in attendance and invited the members of the audience to introduce themselves.

Mr. Jim Olson, President of The Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU) welcomed the Water Quality Board Members to the WEAU Conference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2002 MEETING

Action Taken: It was moved by Ms. Bunker, seconded by Mayor Cushing and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2002 meeting without any changes.

Recognition Awards:

Operator Certification Recognition to Brett Borup for his service on the Operator Certification Council.

Water Quality Board appreciation to Nancy Hess who is retiring for her many years of diligent service to the Board by keeping the Board aware of the financial status of its funding programs.

Operator Certification Program Annual Report: Mr. Lonn Rasmussen, chairman of the Utah Wastewater Operator Certification Council, presented the annual report (See tab 2). Two examination sessions were held last year, at four sites.

LOAN PROGRAM

Financial Assistance Status Report - Ms. Hess distributed to the Board the "Summary of Assistance Program Funds" and provided an update on the status. Some changes to the report have occurred since this document was prepared. (Page 3.1, Tab 3)

Hildale City: (ACTION ITEM) – Mr. McDonald presented Hildale City's request for a grant in the amount of \$61,800 to fund cost increases on the City's wastewater construction project for additional borrow material and increased costs for power connection. The project was originally funded with a local contribution of \$260,000, a \$600,000 grant and a \$2,263,000 loan from the Rural Development Administration and a \$1,585,000, 0%, twenty-year loan from the Water Quality Board. The project costs have increased substantially due to archaeological mitigation at the site. Staff recommends the Board approve a grant of \$61,800 to Hildale City.

Action Taken: It was moved by Mayor Cushing and seconded by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried to approve Hildale City's request for a grant of \$61,800.

Daggett County (1st Hearing) - Mr. Kennington introduced Mr. Jim Briggs from the County Commission and Scott Rogers from Aqua Engineering. Daggett County is making application for \$323,000 in financial assistance to be combined with a \$50,000 grant from the Community Impact Board to finance a wastewater treatment lagoon to replace the failing on-site septic tank drainfield system at the Daggett County jail. Daggett County had explored four alternatives located on page 3.18, the first three were found not to be feasible, leaving the county with the final alternative to refurbish an existing pump station, install a 2,800 lineal foot 4" diameter pressure pipeline and construct a 5 acre total containment lagoon system. Mr. Briggs explained the other sources for funding which were explored before coming to the Board. Dr. Kockenour asked for an explanation of how an error was made of almost 100% in the amount of wastewater being treated. Mr. Kennington explained that over the period between construction from a water line a leak under the jail was discovered, and it was thought that some of the water from this leak was making its way to the drainfields.

South Salt Lake City (1st Hearing) – Ms. Hess introduced Mayor Wes Losser and Gail Carlson, City Manager of South Salt Lake, and Reed Fisher from Central Valley Water Reclamation. South Salt Lake is requesting a loan for \$1,200,000 to pay for its share of the costs of two expansion projects at the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility. A new study of current and projected use of the Central Valley WRF has now determined that South Salt Lake City must pay for a portion of the expanded capacity resulting from the two major projects constructed since 1995. South Salt Lake City's portion of those two projects is approximately 3% or \$700,000 for the 1995 expansion project and \$500,000 for the new digesters.

Weber County (1st Hearing) – Mr. Baker introduced Curtis Christensen, Weber County Engineer. Weber County is requesting funding assistance in the amount of \$140,000 from the Water Quality Board to assist with the installation of sewer laterals within the street right-of-way along the Central Weber Sewer Improvement District's (CWSID) sewer interceptor. The County is requesting that the Water Quality Board provide funding assistance to cover the costs of constructing sewer laterals for residents of the unincorporated county who are required to connect to the CWSID interceptor sewer. This assistance would put these residents on equal footing with West Haven SSD's residents who received funding assistance from the WQB for the same purpose. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,000 per lateral for 70 homes, or \$140,000.

Parowan City (1st Hearing) – Mr. Beavers introduced Mayor Ronald Smith, Council member Trudy Teri, Council member Bruce Matheson and Brent Gardner from Alpha Engineering. Parowan City is requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$2,873,000 for the relocation of its wastewater treatment lagoons with an accompanying interceptor line. Thirty years ago the lagoons were located sufficiently far away from town so as not to be a nuisance. Parowan City has now grown and is expanding towards the south and west in the general area of the lagoons. Parowan City proposes to abandon its existing wastewater treatment lagoons and construct new lagoons farther west near the Little Salt Lake. A new interceptor line would be constructed to convey wastewater to the new facultative discharging lagoons. Treated effluent would be discharged into the Little Salt Lake and would help to revitalize the bird refuge in that area. Several public meeting shave been held concerning the lagoon issue over the past several years. The latest public meeting was held on March 28, 2002. A final public hearing will be held in both Parowan and Brian Head City once a funding authorization has been received by Parowan City. Parowan City will bring \$60,000 to the project.

South Sevier County and Monroe City (1st Hearing): - Mr. Beavers introduced Mayor Craig Mathie of Monroe City, who is also the acting chair of South Sevier Special Service District, and Tim Jones from Jones & DeMille Engineering. South Sevier Special Service District (SSSSD) is requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$4,143,000 for the design and construction of wastewater collection lines and an interceptor line to convey wastewater to Richfield City's wastewater treatment lagoons. Monroe City is also requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$3,830,000 for the design and construction of a city-wide wastewater collection system. Currently, all areas within the SSSSD are served by onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems. The planning document indicates that onsite systems are contributing to these increases. SSSSD proposes to construct centralized wastewater collection systems in the unincorporated areas of the Elsinore-Addition, Austin and Central and to construct an interceptor to convey the 20-year projected wastewater flows from the unincorporated areas within the district. A lot of effort has been put into the planning of this project by the communities within SSSSD. Monroe City has grown to the point where it needs to transition from onsite wastewater systems to a centralized wastewater collection and disposal system. Richfield City has agreed to sell equity in its treatment lagoons to SSSSD for treatment. Monroe City will make payments to the SSSSD for both treatment costs and its proportionate share of the interceptor.

St. George City Funding Request (1st Hearing): Mr. Baker introduced Gary Esplin, St. George City Manager, Barry Barnum, Wastewater Division Manager and Scott Hirschi with Washington County Economic Development. St. George is requesting funding assistance in the amount of \$5,500,000 from the Water Quality Board to assist with the construction of a wastewater pretreatment facility for a Blue Bunny Ice Cream plant which is planned for an industrial park east of town. The pretreatment facility will consist of flow equalization with treatment through dissolved air flotation, anaerobic treatment, activated sludge and centrifugation processes. The facility will be sized to treat average flows of 150,000 gpd. Effluent from the pretreatment facility will be of the approximate strength of domestic wastewater with BOD concentrations of less than 200 mg/l and TSS of less than 200 mg/l. Typically the pretreatment facility for any industrial or commercial activity is the responsibility of that industry. St. George City would secure the loan to build the facility and Blue Bunny ice cream would pay the city to repay the loan.

Wells Dairy made a significant miscalculation in estimating the cost for the necessary wastewater pretreatment facilities at the proposed plant. In Iowa, liquid wastes from Wells Dairy ice cream plants, mostly comprised of melted ice cream, are given to local hog farmers for livestock feed. If a plant were located in St. George there would be insufficient livestock feeders for a similar disposal option. Nearly the entire liquid waste stream from the plant would need to be treated to “industrial pretreatment standards” and discharged to the sanitary sewer where final treatment would occur at the St. George Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Esplin explained that St. George feels very strongly that Blue Bunny is a solid company and is willing to do what ever they can to bring the company to St. George. He continued to say that the city is aware it is not in a hardship situation as many other communities are and would hope that by paying a higher interest rate on the loan would also be a benefit to the Water Quality Board’s Loan Program. Mr. Ostler discussed similar projects in the past with Springville City in 1984 and Moroni Feed. Dr. Kockenour asked about the demographics of the workforce and what the benefits would be to the community. Mr. Esplin responded that since Blue Bunny made the announcement of coming to St. George, the city has been contacted by other companies about the possibility of relocating to St. George. Blue Bunny itself would bring 60-100 jobs to St. George. Mayor Cushing expressed support for the proposal, if sufficient loan funds are available. Mr. Adams expressed similar concerns and wondered if we would still have adequate funding for other mandated and high priority projects, including nonpoint source control projects. Ms. Wechsler questioned that the viability of this project hinged solely on the WQ Board loaning the funds to St. George City. Mr. Esplin explained that the city did not want to apply pressure to the Board, but knew that a loan from the board would be a viable solution to the problem. Mayor Thompson asked if St. George City had explored other economic development loan programs traditionally available to communities. Mr. Esplin explained St. George does not qualify for those programs. Mayor Thompson explained a state funding program called CDBG where the state holds the federal funds that are not allocated and might be available. Mr. Williams said he felt confident that one way or another that Blue Bunny will find a way to fund this project and that he too is concerned about future funds being made available to other communities in light of the recent cuts made by the Legislature. Mayor Thompson made the comment that in Cache County they had gone through two similar situations, and in both instances they felt it was inappropriate to come to this board for money for economic development, and that other avenues should be approached. He indicated that this money is more for community water quality improvements rather than for economic development. Mr. Esplin explained that this proposal could be a benefit to both St. George and the Water Quality Board’s funding program and stated the city would not have come to the board if it would take funds away from other communities. Ms. Wechsler and Dr. Kochenour stated they were both philosophically opposed to the proposal.

BOARD ACTIONS

Presentation of the FY 2003 SRF Intended Use Plan and a request to initiate a public comment period (ACTION ITEM): Ms. Hess directed the board to Tab 4.1. The funds are divided into three areas: Potential State Revolving Fund projects, Potential Rural Community Hardship Grant Projects and Potential Utah Wastewater Loan Program Projects. All the projects are listed for FY2003 with the projected funds listed.

Action Taken: It was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mayor Cushing and unanimously carried to approve initiation to solicit for Public Comment on the FY2003 SRF Intended Use Plan.

Request to initiate rulemaking on R317-100 (ACTION ITEM): Mr. Baker referred the board to Section 5 and outlined the proposed changes to this rule.

Action Taken: Motion for public comment on R317-100 was moved by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mayor Thompson and unanimously carried to authorize staff to proceed with the rulemaking process.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on meeting concerning the legislative actions with other water boards held following March's WQ Board meeting: Mr. Shaw explained that it was determined to go back to the boards and ask if they have any innovative ways to replace sales tax for water projects. We will be losing \$250,000 this year and 2-1/2 million next year. The Governor is preparing his budget next year to reflect no sales taxes will go to fund water projects in Utah. A group of water users are preparing a study to open a dialog with the Governor. Dr. Kochenour stated that maybe we should reconsider our 0% loan policy. Following a brief discussion it was suggested and agreed to have a work meeting following the Board meeting in May.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 17, 2002 in the Cannon Building, Room 114 at 9:30 a.m. with a work meeting to follow.

K. C. Shaw, Chairman